

**STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD
BOARD MEETING SESSION – SANTA ANA REGIONAL WATER BOARD
MAY 10, 2022**

ITEM 3

SUBJECT

CONSIDERATION OF A PROPOSED RESOLUTION AMENDING THE WATER QUALITY CONTROL PLAN FOR THE SANTA ANA RIVER BASIN (BASIN PLAN) TO ESTABLISH MAXIMUM BENEFIT TOTAL DISSOLVED SOLIDS (TDS) AND NITRATE AS NITROGEN GROUNDWATER QUALITY OBJECTIVES AND A SALT AND NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE ELSINORE GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT ZONE (GMZ).

DISCUSSION

On December 10, 2021, the Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board (Santa Ana Water Board) adopted [Resolution R8-2021-0044](#) amending the Basin Plan to establish maximum benefit TDS and nitrate as nitrogen water quality objectives and to adopt a salt and nutrient management plan for the Elsinore Groundwater Management Zone in the Santa Ana Region (Basin Plan amendment).

Federal law requires states to establish water quality standards (beneficial uses, water quality criteria, and an antidegradation policy) for all surface water bodies within the state's jurisdiction and to review those standards at least once every three years. The Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act (Wat. Code, § 13000, et seq.) establishes similar requirements in state law for both surface waters and groundwaters. For the Santa Ana Region, these standards are established in the Basin Plan. In California, water quality criteria are known as "water quality objectives."

The purpose of the Basin Plan amendment described in this Staff Report is to establish the maximum benefit TDS and nitrate as nitrogen water quality objectives for the groundwater resources in the Elsinore GMZ, specifically to:

- Amend Table 4-1 of the Basin Plan to incorporate the maximum benefit TDS and nitrate as nitrogen objectives for the Elsinore GMZ.
- Incorporate a maximum benefit Salt and Nutrient Management Plan (SNMP) for the Elsinore GMZ into Chapter 5 – Implementation of the Basin Plan.

POLICY ISSUE

Should the State Water Board approve the amendment to the Basin Plan for the Santa Ana Region to establish the maximum benefit TDS and nitrate as nitrogen objectives and to incorporate a maximum benefit SNMP for the Elsinore GMZ?

FISCAL IMPACT

Santa Ana Water Board and State Water Board staff work associated with or resulting from this action will be addressed with existing and future budgeted resources.

REGIONAL BOARD IMPACT

Approval of this resolution will amend the Basin Plan for the Santa Ana Region.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommend that the State Water Board:

1. Approve the amendment to the Basin Plan adopted under Santa Ana Water Board Resolution R8-2021-0044.
2. Authorize the Executive Director or designee to submit the Basin Plan amendment adopted under Santa Ana Water Board Resolution R8-2021-0044 as approved, and the administrative record for this action to the Office of Administrative Law.